

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 DECEMBER 1981

Israel

Nonconfidence Motion Defeated -- Jerusalem radio reported that the Knesset rejected the Shinuy-sponsored nonconfidence motion by 57 votes to 47. In a speech during the Knesset debate on the motion, broadcast by IDF radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir defended the government's reaction to the U.S. suspension of the strategic cooperation agreement by asserting that Israel was obligated to speak sincerely to the United States, point out its "mistake" and demand that it be corrected. He said Israel had been deeply hurt by the U.S. move and that it could never accept being punished after every difference of opinion with the United States. Elsewhere in his speech, Shamir emphasized that the U.S.-Israeli friendship is firm and permanent and will continue to survive "crises" between the two countries.

Ford Letter -- According to HA'ARETZ, in September 1975 former U.S. President Gerald Ford gave Yitzhaq Rabin, then prime minister, a secret written commitment that the United States would support a permanent Israeli presence in the Golan Heights. According to sources in Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office, cited by the Jerusalem POST, the existence of the letter was leaked by opposition members in order to prove that there was no need for the Golan Heights Law. However, these sources said that recent U.S. actions cast such "grave doubt" on U.S. credibility that the Golan Heights Law was necessary. They asserted that the Americans are breaking "all sorts" of undertakings and often behave as if they were no more than spokesmen for the Saudis.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Fahd Press Statement, Khaddam Comment -- Riyadh radio reported that in a press statement issued at the conclusion of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz declared that the Arab nation, particularly Saudi Arabia and Syria, "will not allow" Israel to take over any part of the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights. Prince Fahd said it would be better to use peaceful means to restore Arab rights, but if that was not possible, the Arab leaders must consider other "appropriate measures." Expressing his satisfaction with the Syrian president's visit, Prince Fahd said the main aim had been to restore Arab solidarity and he asserted that all concerned had shown the appropriate "responsibility" in view of present circumstances in the Arab world. Prince Fahd said the Saudi-Syrian talks did not touch on the Saudi peace plan. According to a later SPA report on the statement, Prince Fahd asserted that, should all other methods fail, Arab land must be retrieved by the same methods by which it was "usurped."

In a statement to AFP, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam described President al-Asad's visit to Saudi Arabia as "excellent," Damascus radio reported. He added that an atmosphere of complete understanding prevailed during the talks.

Al-Asad Visit to Kuwait -- KUNA reported that President al-Asad left Kuwait after a 1-day visit during which he held talks with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah on current Arab developments and bilateral relations. According to Damascus radio, the talks were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. WAKH later reported Al-Asad's arrival in Bahrain for talks with Bahraini Amir Shaykh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

Gulf Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Assistant Secretary General Ibrahim as-Subhi met in Manama with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Interior Minister Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, WAKH reported. After the meetings As-Subhi revealed that the GCC Secretariat is working on a Gulf security plan in view of the recently discovered sabotage plot in Bahrain, which, he claimed, was aimed at the entire Gulf region.

Citing AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, WAKH later reported an announcement by the Bahraini interior minister that more than 90 percent of the members of the sabotage group are under the control of the authorities. He said interrogation had proved that they were trained in Iran.

Lebanon

Ba'th Party Member Killed -- The Voice of Lebanon reported that Muhammad Haydar, an aide to the regional secretary of the Syrian Ba'th Party in Lebanon, was shot and killed in Beirut. It said a member of the Progressive Socialist Party is suspected of committing the murder.

Haddad Speech -- In a speech broadcast by the Voice of Hope radio, Christian militia leader Maj Sa'd Haddad demanded that the Syrians leave Lebanon because the Lebanese are capable of ensuring their own security, while Syria cannot establish security even in its own country. He warned Lebanese citizens to buy Lebanese flags to fly over their houses to identify themselves when the Christian militia forces begin military action against the Syrians and "swindlers." Asserting that such military action is bound to come, Haddad said he hoped it would begin soon.

Libya

According to Tripoli radio, thousands of Benghazi citizens staged a demonstration to denounce the U.S. "plots" against the Libyan Arab people and their leaders. The radio broadcast a statement issued by the demonstrators denouncing the United States as the "enemy of mankind" which is behind all attempts to humiliate and insult the Arab people.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In an interview with Iraqi television reported by INA, Iraqi Chief of Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal said Iranian battlefield casualties from 11 to 18 December amounted to 11,000 dead and 10,000 wounded. He asserted that the Iranians failed to gain any ground during their offensive in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions and that Iraqi forces still hold the positions they reached in September 1980. Shanshal admitted that the Iranians took a village in the Susangerd region during their late November offensive, but said the victory was only useful for propaganda purposes. The daily Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by INA reported a large-scale attack in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar areas in which it claimed 768 Iranians were killed.

On the other hand, battle reports carried by PARS and Tehran radio continued to report Iranian victories and Iraqi retreats on all points.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio reported that Afghanistan and Bulgaria signed a friendship and cooperation agreement during a visit to Sofia by President Babrak Karmal.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT**
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PDPA, GOVERNMENT MESSAGE TO PASHTUN TRIBES

LD221038 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Message of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government to Pashtun tribes and clans ratified at the Seventh Plenum of the Central Committee; read by Dr Najib, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Tribal Affairs Commission -- live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The message of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government to all Pashtun tribes and clans:

Very dear Pashtun brothers, peace be upon you. Today in this important, sensitive phase in the history of our country and nation, our historical enemies and new and old malevolents are sad at the victory of the revolution and at the building of a new, happy and progressive Afghanistan. All have joined hands. They have brought to their side some people of our own homeland. They want to burn this proud country of ours in the flames of an undeclared war and want to make the noble and courageous nation of this homeland fight among themselves and drown in blood.

The issue we are facing today is not only an issue for our party and the DRA Government; it is an issue for our whole nation. It is the issue of all those Pashtun brothers whose blood, courage and bravery lies in Afghanistan's soil and in the independence and freedom of this homeland. That is why we place this issue in front of all of you. When we speak of this we remember the proud pages of history: When Afghanistan was subject to such events, the elders and leaders of all tribes and clans would set aside all private, family clan and other differences and hold joint jirgas [councils] for the security and salvation of their common homeland, for the independence and freedom of their one, common nation, for the honor of the soil and for the protection of national and religious namus [honor, usually used in connection with women's honor]. In united word, heart and voice, they made a united, national decision. Then they rose up, prepared themselves and protected their soil and namus from the enemy.

Regrets! A hundred regrets! This is the way it is today. The criminal and exploiting British were forced to run away by our martyred and revered fathers and grandfathers. Today the hands of those enemies working among us do not let us, like brothers in our own homes, hold jirgas and make decisions about our future. They make us fight among ourselves and drown our homeland in our brothers' blood. They want to kill our national and religious mother, sister and others -- to murder them. [sentence as heard]

Greetings be upon the country's national and spiritual leaders, upon their graves and tombs, those who have kept alive through history the tradition of the jirga and council in this homeland. In light of this proud tradition they have made decisions by which our martyred and revered grandfathers and fathers have, up to this time, protected ancient Afghanistan from every enemy. [sentence as heard]

Oh Pashtun brothers, wherever you are living! Are you living in your poor, tribal fraternal regions or do you reside in the upper or lower [valleys]? You are all our brothers and we talk to you about jirgas and councils. We hope that you will listen to such talk with the ears of Pashtuns, honor and faith and will consider these words as your courageous fathers and grandfathers did, according to the requirements of your motherland and national and religious honor, and will prepare yourselves for action.

After stating this belief and determination, with all the responsibility that we have in our possession today, with the support of the great God, our party comrades, the Revolutionary Council and the government assure you, on behalf of the DRA Government and the PDPA political party, that we bow our heads in respect before your proud history as the individual [as heard] of the revolutionary Afghanistan in whose veins is Afghan blood and in whose heart is the sensation of faith; who is the good child of his parents and in whose veins is no trace of slavery and homeland selling.

It sends greetings of honor to you, your jihads and ghazas [holy wars], recognizing the efforts you have made for your honor and national dignity and that those efforts have been made in the light of the sacred religion of Islam for your religion, soil and namus, and that you have gained it in your bright history, in particular in the ghazas of British colonialism. [sentence as heard] You have played a big role in the independence and freedom of Afghanistan. Today, when you in your own land are free to hold your fraternal jirgas and councils, the shall [headpiece] of the honor of your mother and daughter is secure, and your faiths, your religious obligations and your religious activities are safe against the seditions and seditious deviations of the American, Chinese and British plunderers' fabricated religious groups, which have subjected all Muslims to corruption. [sentence as heard] There you are (?keeping) the pashtu [honor] of your fathers and grandfathers. There you are (?following) the Hazarat-e Mohammad, peace be upon him. There exists, among you, the habit and shari'ah of Islam. These are all the result of historical and national sacrifice and courage.

Today Afghanistan, in the rays of revolution, is striving toward prosperity, happiness and security. It includes some of your blood which was lost in those ghazas. We assure you and promise you that no one can forget, deny or dismiss your pride and your part in this revolutionary Afghanistan. We assure you that so long as this revolutionary Afghanistan exists, your share and your national pride and your historical achievements will exist, that respect for your religious beliefs and faith will exist and that your bright future will be guaranteed. Believe us when we say that this revolutionary Afghanistan today, with the courage and self-sacrifice of its courageous sons and brothers and with the support of our party and international friends, is so powerful and consolidated that there is no power on earth that will block the path of this prosperity and happiness.

Dear brothers, our historical enemies all know that this revolution is irreversible. These enemies have tested their strength for over 3 years now. They have spent a lot of kaldars [Pakistani currency] and dollars, sent a lot of weapons, assigned their most experienced conspirators and saboteurs, drawn up many counterrevolutionary schemes, trained many saboteurs and sent them to our country. They have embarked on every kind of aggression and subversion, but they have not been able to inflict any revolt on the revolution of Afghanistan. The revolution is being strengthened daily and the enemies are doomed to defeat step-by-step.

Now, all our enemies and their agents have despaired and in despair have prepared to make this homeland, this house and home and these nations fight among themselves, drown them in blood and burn them in fire. The enemies know that as a result of this satanic action they will not achieve anything, but because of bad intentions and enmity want the destruction and elimination of our proud homeland and courageous nation. You should be confident that revolutionary Afghanistan and its security forces are aware of every conspiracy and plan of the enemy and has the power and capability to ensure that every action and movement of the enemy, anywhere and in whatever form, will be silenced and eliminated. The revolutionary government has made this decision and intends to cleanse this sacred and pure soil of the martyrs and ghazis of every mischief, aggression, corruption and all aggressors. If God wills, very soon these mountains, these valleys, these pathways, these homes and houses and every corner of this homeland will be cleansed of all subversion and saboteurs.

But, Oh our Pashtun brothers! Oh the sons and brothers of the martyrs and ghazis of the path of independence and freedom! Due to the courage and self-sacrifice of your fathers and forefathers, British colonialism, in whose territory the sun did not set, was defeated three times and ran away (?shamefully) from your soil. What does your national honor, religious obligation and the warm blood of your martyrs and ghazi fathers and forefathers in your veins tell you? What is your national and religious obligations at such a time? If your honorable and courageous elders were alive today, what would they have done?

Would they have (?waited) and would they have let the enemy and its agents and servants play with our national honor and Islamic sanctities or not? They would have prepared themselves; they would have come out and would have broken the legs of those who set foot on this soil with bad intentions and foul aims. As was the case with your fathers and forefathers in the past, who did not tolerate any aggression from British colonialists on their soil, namus and honor, today too we are confident that your national pride, faithful feelings and the proud blood of your fathers and forefathers will not tolerate any kind of aggression from U.S. imperialism, the criminal British and China on your soil, honor and namus. That is why we are confident that you, as required by your national pride, faithful feelings and the honored blood of your fathers and forefathers, will today rise as your leaders and elders rose at such times.

Brothers! You should all become like one fist, one bastion, from the mountains of Badakhshan to the black waters [as heard], becoming like a steel wall of Pashtun courage and honor so that those with (?stubborn) heads break them against yours. Thus you will keep the inheritance of your martyred and ghazi fathers' historic courage and manhood.

In today's world, once again take out your Pashtun sword, make history from courage for future generations, and deliver your soil, religion and namus, the honor and dignity of your sisters and daughters from the dishonorable agents of U.S. imperialism and from its aggressive collaborators in the world and in the region. That is why we, today, in the name of your national honor, faithful feelings and the honorable blood of fathers and forefathers, call on you: Oh Pashtun brothers! Whoever you are, wherever you reside -- in the mountains or in the fields, at home or outside the home -- and whether you are discontented with each other. Rise to regain happiness and your honor, the honor of your soil, religion and faith, and for the prosperity of your future and for the salvation of your ancient, proud homeland from looting and sedition. Prepare yourselves and protect your children and your homeland from the enemies.

Your republican, revolutionary and democratic Afghanistan is ready with all its moral and material power. If you give brotherhood and help, we, with all our responsibility, promise you that your revolutionary Afghanistan will welcome you. Rise up and prepare yourselves with the tradition and honor of your fathers and forefathers. Renew your faith with religious kalima [commandment in Islam] and begin work on the path of your ancient tradition. We have singled out the following for you:

1. Those of our brothers who have become angry for some reason and whose hearts are wounded for some reason, who have complaints and are indignant, who have left their homes and villages, who are opposing the revolutionary Afghanistan -- reconcile them and bring them back to their paternal and maternal home.
2. Those of your brothers who have been frightened by someone from the revolution or have been harmed and are heading on the path of indignation and revenge -- send them a jirga, talk to them and assure them that revolutionary Afghanistan guarantees your honor, interests and property, your happiness and future.
3. Those religious leaders and ulema and preachers of the sacred religion, who have been deceived by someone or have been repressed for some reason -- assure them that no one in Muslim and revolutionary Afghanistan can oppose religion, faith, belief, religious rites, Koranic tenets and Muhammad's sayings and actions. If someone does, we will all oppose it. Give religious and spiritual guidance to the toiling Muslims in your mosques.
4. Those leaders and elders of the tribes and clans who have been frightened by someone from their own revolutionary homeland or suppressed and who are living in one place and another -- send jirga to them and tell them that their social rights are guaranteed in revolutionary Afghanistan and that honor and dignity will be maintained. Come back to your homes and villages and build the hojra [guest house], mosque and land of your fathers and forefathers.

5. Those compatriots of ours who have differences of opinion with the party members of revolutionary Afghanistan -- tell them that there is harm in fighting and discord for the whole country and all Muslim compatriots. Let us lay down sword and rifle. Cease fire; use discussion and reason and think about the prosperity of our country and nation. Let killing each other and setting fire to each other cease. Be tolerant of one another and, like our fathers and forefathers, find faith and honor in living in this, our common homeland.

6. Those compatriots of ours who take weapons, kaldars and dollars from our recognized historical national enemies and with them destroy the houses, mosques, fields and marks of their fathers' and forefathers' land and kill their own religious and national brothers and sisters -- tell them who (?provoked) them and how long they will be eliminating their own brothers and sisters with the dollar and weapon of the enemy. Our homeland is, for God's sake, our homeland; the brother of the homeland is, for God's sake, the brother. Tomorrow you will regret and repent your action, but time will have passed and been wasted. Do not stain your faces in the pages of history and in the future of happy Afghanistan. Cease this foul action and take positions in the ranks of the homeland and its sons (?to build) a glorious Afghanistan.

Oh courageous, brave and manly Pashtuns of jirgas and councils! If you do this on your side, we on our side, in full responsibility, promise that each of your jirgas in this series will be acceptable to us. We assure you that if you start on this work, then the great God will bestow blessings on you, will soon build our home and our proud and ancient country, will blacken the face of reaction and its agents, and will reveal lies to be lies so that the truth will take their place.

First, security will be maintained in our land and shooting, subversion, aggression and bloodshed will cease. Those compatriots who have been separated from their motherland will return.

All the noble people of Afghanistan will, in honor and dignity and in an atmosphere of peace and security in their homes and villages, begin to build their future and start work on the path of the homeland's progress with honor and pride.

Second, those limited military units of the friend and neighbor country, the Soviet Union, that have been invited here to stop foreign aggression and attacks will return to their peaceful country in accordance with the statement of the DRA Government of 24 August 1981, which was issued to seek a political settlement of the question, whenever international agreements and guarantees concerning the cessation of armed interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the cessation of other forms of interference are received and implemented.

We will build this homeland, protected with the blood of our fathers and forefathers, with our own hands and work for our future generations. It will be a beautiful and happy paradise and we will busy ourselves in work and toil in peace and security. If this is not done and those who are petted in the ranks of the enemy and who have joined hands with our historical enemies pin their eyes on money and weapons and carry out the destruction of a paradise such as Afghanistan for their aims, and carry out the killing and burning of the Muslim nation of this homeland, then do not listen to our good intentions: do not listen to your jirga and to the nation. The elimination of such rebels will then be our national duty.

According to the sacred religion of Islam and the proud tradition of our nation, we entrust this authority in you honorable Pashtuns so that you should fulfill your obligations, bring about understanding and turn them away from the path of war and destruction. If they do not accept your jirga then, in accordance with your Pashtun historical tradition and codes and in accordance with the dictates of the Koranic verses, rise to eradicate and uproot this type of rebel. This is a duty.

Our Pashtun brothers, these were a few words that we, before the great God, in the name of your honor and faith and with the voice of our conscience -- because of the historical responsibility of our party, government and state -- very clearly put to you; we have fulfilled our obligations! It is up to you.

This national, historical, religious and traditional responsibility is yours. It is your duty to answer to your God, your conscience, your future generations and your history. What have you done to repel rebellion, maintain security, deliver the homeland, namus, soil, national independence and religious feelings? We once again assure you that the PDPA and your revolutionary government will no longer be negligent in this regard and we hope that you, too, will prepare for your national, historical and religious responsibility. May God will it that we all, like our proud fathers and forefathers, will be prepared on this historical issue to deliver our homeland from the enemies and their agents, set revolutionary Afghanistan on the path of prosperity and happiness in an atmosphere of peace and security, and leave a new, beautiful Afghanistan in a new world for our future generations as a gift.

May God help me.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSES BUDGET 22 DEC

GF231645 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1300 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] The chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, at the end of the general session of the Council of Ministers held yesterday said that two important matters were discussed. The first was the 1982 government budget. Discussion on this subject encompassed not only the Ministry of Finance but all government organizations and ministries.

He said it is a matter of great pleasure that despite economic setbacks during the past year expenses remained small and a considerable increase appeared in government revenue. In this connection he said that Soviet economic aid must also be mentioned. In addition, he said, the price of natural gas exported to USSR was increased. In the budget Soviet aid amounts to (?5) billion afghanis and this amount [words indistinct] of the budget, he said.

He also referred to the speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA and chairman of Afghanistan's Revolutionary Council, in which he said that the development of industrial production is necessary for a healthy economy. Keshtmand said that for the development of the (?traditional production) of the country and for more effective employment of the government budget it is essential that the Finance Ministry improve the mode of collection of revenues and carefully supervise the use made of government revenue by the various government offices. He also said that attention should be paid to improving coordination of the banking system in the country to enable the banks to work toward the betterment of the national economy.

SULAYMAN LAEQ RETURNS FROM USSR VISIT 23 DEC

GF231647 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] The minister for high jirga of nationalities and jirgas, Sulayman Laeq, who is also chairman of the Afghan Academy of Sciences, who was on an official and friendly visit to Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, returned home today.

During his stay in the Soviet Union, he visited educational and scientific centers and also signed cooperation agreements between the Soviet academy and its Afghan counterpart.

PTI INTERVIEWS BULGARIA'S YORDANOV ON RELATIONS

BK200938 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria Georgi Yordanov has said there are real possibilities of expanding bilateral economic relations between his country and India. Yordanov, who has just concluded his visit to India, told PTI in an interview that possibilities of growing cooperation exist in a number of fields like machine building, metallurgy, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and food-processing industries. He said cultural cooperation between the two countries is also growing.

Yordanov has also expressed confidence that the situation in Poland will normalize. He blamed the imperialist forces, particularly the United States, for complicating the situation in Europe and stifling the prospects of detente.

GANDHI ON RUNNING OF TARAPUR ATOMIC PLANT

BK160939 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi told the Lok Sabha today that due to delays in the receipt of enriched uranium supplies from the United States the power level of the Tarapur atomic power station has had to be reduced to stretch the fuel cycle. Mrs Gandhi said that the government is in a position to keep the Tarapur atomic station working irrespective of the outcome of the recent discussions with the U.S.A.

Reprocessing Plant

BK161349 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] The first plant to reprocess the spent nuclear fuel has already been installed in Tarapur. It will reprocess spent fuel from power reactors in Rajasthan and Tarapur.

Giving this information in the Lok Sabha in a written reply, the prime minister said that another plant is proposed to be set up at Kalpakam, near Madras.

HINDU ON DEVELOPING ROLE, CONDITION OF NAVY

BK221511 Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Dec 81 p 8

[Article by Ashis K. Biswas: "Seaworthy, But the Navy Lacks Punch"]

[Excerpts] Geo-political factors generally play a large part in the shaping of a nation's armed forces. They determine the composition of the striking arms like the army, the navy and the air force. Within the Indian Navy, which celebrates its establishment officially this week, there can be no question that new perceptions are emerging.

For a country the size of India, with its 9,600-km long coastline, it is surprising that its naval wing remains, in comparison with its air and land wings, rather underdeveloped.

For the first time since its evolution in India, the role of the navy is becoming tangled with political considerations and its growth has acquired political overtones. On another plane, it means that India is only now catching up with the power politics that goes on around the world, for the navies of the developed nations had started playing a distinctly political role centuries ago.

If awareness leads to constructive action, signs in Indian naval bases and installations are certainly encouraging.

During a recent visit to one of these installations on the eastern seaboard, one found that almost every officer was aware of the new political dimensions that had emerged in his work.

Vice-Admiral M.K. Roy, for instance, delivered several speeches before the visiting newsmen to his officers and men of the navy. There was not a single occasion when he failed to mention the sudden enlargement of the scope of their work. Everyone, whether on board a submarine or a ship, or doing less exciting work in a harbour, seemed to know the issues involved as well as his parading drills. The disturbing question was whether this was adequate.

In India, the navy suffers from a case of isolationism, without any conscious design on the part of anybody. India has fought three wars with Pakistan, but the navy came decisively into the picture only in 1971, when it set alight the Karachi port and sank at least seven Pakistani vessels, among them the sub Ghazi snooping around the eastern seaboard. For the rest it might not have existed.

As one officer explained it, "everybody looks up when an aircraft flies overhead or when soldiers march past. They get some kind of an idea what the air force or the army might be really like. On the other hand, hardly anybody has watched a destroyer patrol. We remain unseen and anonymous."

While the general complaint is amply justified, the very nature of naval actions precludes the possibility of public exposure along the lines of the army or the air force. Compared to people witnessing aerial dog-fights and hand-to-hand combat, the only people watching great nautical battles fought on the high seas are, unfortunately, the men of the navies themselves.

On the maritime horizon, menacing clouds have appeared over the last few years changing the very tone of the political scenario. The Western powers have set up a big base, very close to Indian shores. Some years ago the Indonesians named the Indian Ocean as their own sea. If India's intention was to keep the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, such noble thinking already belongs to a bygone age.

Scientists have always said that under the oceans, there was enough food to keep the entire world fed adequately. But here the overriding question is one of distribution. If undersea wealth and assets are distributed along the lines of the arrangement seen on land, the result would be disastrous for all except a handful of nations. Hence the new Third World insistence on getting the maritime agreement (defining a 20-km limit on the sea as part of a nation's own territory, a 40-km territory as a contiguous zone and 320-km territory as its own exclusive zone) off the ground as early as possibly.

The question of national development for all countries, in a nutshell, is inextricably linked with the development of the navies.

There seems to be a sense of disappointment among naval authorities that the Government of India does not realise this very well. With some justification, they feel that their own awareness might not be adequate in a crisis situation, unless they have their working instruments, which in this case are admittedly costly: ships, destroyers, subs and patrol boats.

The number of submarines serving India's eastern and western naval commands is certainly not adequate and the southern command does not have any at all. Its subs again are certainly not of the most modern type. The same could be said of its frigates, which are all maintained rather well, but are well advanced in their years.

If the spirit of the men manning them is the decisive factor, there was no cause to worry, for the level of discipline, efficiency and professionalism that one encounters in a place like Vizag, for instance, is certainly impressive. Still one cannot help feeling that it is not adequate. Only recently has the country acquired the ability to repair its own subs.

The training establishment at Vizag is trying its best to overcome these deficiencies. Already it has introduced elements in its curriculum that are not taught anywhere in Asia. According to the needs of individuals, the period of training can vary from five weeks to several years. Its head, Capt. S. Shahaney, looks highly competent and eminently nautical in the eyes of landlubbers, with his beard and light eyes.

The admiral superintendent of the naval dockyard at Vizag, Rear Admiral Y. Inamdar, commands an institution that is spread over several hundreds of acres with many officers under him. Repairing a warship, he said, is often rebuilding it. The dockyard, with a heavy investment, is still incomplete. At any time, over 50 units, as he called them, can be repaired effectively.

For a layman, if the ship is the defensive arm of the navy, because it is exposed, the offensive arm is certainly the sub. Subs do not normally move alone, with several ships doing a kind of guard duty on them. To guard two million square miles of water, however, as Vice Admiral Roy reminded pressmen, ships seemed stretched pretty thin on the ground -- on the water, as in this case.

DOCKYARD WORK CONTINUES WITH SOVIET SUPPLIES

BK221421 Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Dec 81 p 8

[Excerpt] The Vizag dockyard carried out its first repair of a submarine recently, although it is not yet equipped with all the necessary facilities, according to Rear Admiral Y. Inamdar, admiral superintendent.

Work on the vast 700-acre dockyard, with facilities for repairing ships at a specially built dry dock was begun in 1970. At present, over 7,000 men, along with their officers, are enrolled and labour relations, despite some union activity, are good. Over Rs. 100 crores have been spent on the dockyard, but the authorities have asked for a further Rs. 60 crores during the coming years, to make it operationally comprehensive. So far 60 vessels of various types have been handled or repaired at the yard.

Naval authorities said that the dockyard is specially designed to handle and repair ships, vessels and crafts from East European countries or the Soviet Union. However, the authorities have achieved an effective coordination between the eastern and western coasts and Western type of vessels are being handled in Bombay.

Taking the cost escalation factor into account, navy sources believe that the total cost of building the dockyard might run to over Rs. 300 crores eventually. Most of the equipment installed, where imports were concerned, came from the USSR.

Sophistication has reached a stage in the construction of naval vessels, where there were 21 different types of craft at present, including offensive and defensive varieties, ranging from aircraft carriers to submarines, the sources said.

Vizag constitutes the focal point of the eastern naval command, its responsibility extending to the south of Sri Lanka into the Indian Ocean, the entire east coast, on to the Malacca Straits, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The eastern fleet comprises submarines, anti-submarine vessels, landing ships and other craft. Shore support facilities, including coastal batteries, are being increased.

The dry dock is the largest in Asia, while work on another has begun. A naval complex has been planned for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as well as the extension of existing facilities in Calcutta, Madras and Paradeep. A new basic training institute has been set up at Chilka, in Orissa.

The eastern fleet is under the command of the flag officer commanding-in-chief of the rank of vice-admiral.

INDIAN-SOVIET TRADE TALKS BEGIN IN DELHI

BK221715 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Indo-Soviet talks to work out annual trade plan began in New Delhi this morning. The Indian delegation is led by Commerce Secretary Abid Hussain [name, title as heard] and the Soviet delegation by Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade I.T. Grishin.

In the preliminary session, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the growth in trade between the two countries. Noting that the trade is being virtually doubled with every successive 5-year trade plan, they felt that there is still a vast scope for further growth.

IRAN, IRAQ, LIBYA APPROACHED FOR OIL AID

BK221021 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] India has approached many OPEC countries for preferential treatment and loan assistance in the supply of crude oil. Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals Sethi told the Lok Sabha today that Iran, Iraq and Libya have been approached to be more considerate in view of the country's low per capita consumption of petroleum products.

The minister also informed the members that agreements have been concluded with the National Iranian Oil Company for the supply of 3.3 million tons of crude oil to India during [words indistinct] next year. He said this will meet about 9.3 percent of the estimated total domestic demand of crude oil.

Sethi also said that some quantity of natural gas has been discovered recently in well No six in Tripura. Further testing is being carried out in the well.

750,000 TON OF WHEAT TO BE IMPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA

BK091307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The government is to import 750,000 tons of wheat from Australia in addition to over 1.5 million tons of wheat being imported from the United States. Disclosing this in the Rajya Sabha today Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh said in a written reply the import is being made to overcome the possible shortage in achieving the procurement target of 9.5 million tons of wheat for this year because of various reasons.

PUNJAB MINISTERS RECEIVE 'KHALISTAN MONEY'

BK221229 Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Dec 81 p 10

[Text] Chandigarh, Dec 16 (PTI) -- Some of the Punjab ministers received "Khalistan currency" from Canada in their mail today.

One of them, Revenue Minister Beant Singh, received two crisp chips in the denomination of 10 dollars each issued by the "Bank of Khalistan" under the signatures of one Mr Surjan Singh, claimed to be the bank governor.

The two chips bore the numbers 250913 and 250914 respectively and the words "Republic of Khalistan."

The chips carried the picture of Akal Takhat, supreme seat of Sikh religion in Amritsar, on one side and Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's on the reverse.

Mr Beant Singh has forwarded the chips to Chief Minister Darbara Singh, with a request for an inquiry into the matter.

KHAMENE'I SPEAKS ON SUNNI-SHI'ITE UNITY

GF232000 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Sunni ulema and revered Friday imams of Sistan va Baluchestan Province met this morning with 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the republic. During the meeting, one of the Sunni ulema submitted a report on the province to President Khamene'i and expressed full support and consolidation of the area for Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Khamene'i delivered a speech in which he stressed the necessity of bolstering unity and promoting cultural activities in Sistan va Baluchestan, saying that the Sunni ulema bear an important responsibility in this area. Khamene'i added that the area did not attain a great deal of cultural development because of the tyranny and discrimination of the toppled regime.

Emphasizing the unity between Sunni and Shi'ite, the president said that purity and brotherhood link us to our Sunni brothers.

In another part of his speech, Khamene'i said there are hands in our world today trying to sow discord between the Sunni and Shi'ite brothers, as you saw at the At-Ta'if conference when a plan was prepared by politicians who have betrayed Islam. That plan states that if the Islamic revolution is to be destroyed, one of the ways to realize this is by sowing the seeds of discord between Sunni and Shi'ite brothers.

Recalling some of the problems the country is suffering from, the president said: Since we are leading the struggle against the authoritative governments in the world, these governments cause us trouble in the petroleum, commercial and agricultural fields, in domestic affairs and so on. One of these problems is the war imposed on us that has lasted for 15 months.

MAJLIS DEPUTY, SHAHR KORD GOVERNOR ASSASSINATED

LD231120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1035 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Mashhad that Mojtaba Estaki, deputy for Shahr Kord at the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and Brother Emam Qoli Ja'farzadeh, the governor of the city, who arrived in Mashhad yesterday to pay homage to the most pure shrine of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, were martyred in a treacherous plot by the American hypocrites organization.

According to the report, Brothers Estaki and Ja'farzadeh, accompanied by engineer Nuri, the governor's political deputy, as well as the Shahr Kord Revolution Guards Corps commander and one of the city's corpsmen, at 1730 yesterday, as they were going in a car toward the most pure shrine of the eighth imam, were identified by the hypocrites minigroup and attacked with a grenade at Mashhad's Khajeh Rabi' area.

In this incident the Shahr Kord governor's political deputy, the commander of the city's Revolution Guards Corps and one of their guards were also injured. They were immediately rushed to a hospital and operated on.

The Central News Unit report says that the two assailant hypocrites fled the scene on a motorcycle. The general condition of those injured in the incident has been described as satisfactory.

Rafsanjani Eulogy

LD232138 Tehran PARS in English 1835 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 23 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani, in today's open session, referred to the martyrdoms of the Shahr Kord deputy of (Chaharmahal)-e Bakhtiari Province in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Mojtaba Estaki, and of the governor of the city, Ja'farzadeh, which occurred in the holy city of Mashhad on Tuesday night.

"Unfortunately the conterrevolution," added the Majlis speaker, "took away from us one of good friends and colleagues in the Majlis. The martyr Estaki, the deputy from Shahr Kord, whose deputy brother was also martyred by the bombing of the Tehran headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party on June 28, has joined the ranks of the martyrs, along with him was the governor of the city, Ja'farzadeh, who, during the three years after the victory of the Islamic revolution, has contributed great service in the steel mill industry and the reconstruction jihad... It is obvious that the counterrevolution, acting on the orders of domestic and foreign enemies, has taken away our valuable forces, especially aiming at those in the Majlis." He further added that although these crimes ultimately would benefit the oppressed of the world and the Islamic revolution of Iran, the temporary damages caused by losing such personalities could not be ignored.

The Shahr Kord deputy and governor were martyred on Tuesday by terrorists in the city of Mashhad. The two along with three aides were martyred by a grenade while they were on their way to the holy shrine of Imam Reza.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session was the deputy from Shirvan, Khorasan Province, Mohammad Kazem Saburi, who also referred to the martyrdom of the Shahr Kord deputy and said that once again the criminal hands of the United States came out of the sleeves of the monafeqin (MKO). The next speaker was the deputy from Qorveh, Kordestan Province, Nostralloh Hatefi, who talked about the tricks and plots of the world oppressors aimed at bringing the oppressed of the world and the Islamic revolution of Iran to their knees. At the end of his speech, the Qorveh deputy suggested that a group be formed to explain and analyse these plots of imperialism and Zionism for the people so that they would be better able to encounter them.

The session ended at noon and the next was scheduled for 8:00 a.m. Monday.

PLOT TO BOMB PRAYERS CEREMONY DISCOVERED

NC240701 Paris AFP in English 0650 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 24 Dec (AFP) -- Authorities announced here Wednesday a terrorist plan to blast Friday prayer services at (?Tehran) University with explosives hidden in a poster portrait of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution. [Words indistinct] kilos (77 pounds) of explosive were concealed in the three-square-meter (30-square-feet) picture and frame, said the commander of the revolutionary guards, Mohsen Reza'i.

The plot was discovered "by the grace of God" before the portrait was taken to the university for the Friday sabbath prayers, Mr Reza'i said.

Speaking at a press conference, he urged continued vigilance because "[words indistinct] the hypocrites (leftist Mojahedin-e Khalq) is not settled and they still [word indistinct] in military action."

"Their apparent retreat should not be viewed naively, and the people should watch for new attacks," [passage indistinct] been arrested last month and that "considerable information had been wrung from them.

Concerning the struggle in Kordestan, the revolutionary guard commander said the Komeleh, a Maoist Kurdish autonomist group, had professed a more conservative position "with the aim of starting negotiations with [words indistinct]."

Mr Reza'i launched a new appeal for volunteers to fight Iraq. "The more volunteers, [words indistinct] the war will end," he said.

In the last two weeks, some high-ranking Iraqi officers had surrendered and Iraqi [words indistinct] transport crews had been sent to the (?front) as infantry, he said.

Mr Reza'i said an [word indistinct] battalion of revolutionary guards would soon go into action. It would quickly press into service every captured enemy armored vehicle, he said.

POLICE HEAD ON INSPECTION TOUR OF SHIRAZ

GF221631 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] The national police chief and his deputy arrived in Shiraz at 1430 today. Colonel Hejazi and a number of companions arrived to review the problems and shortcomings of Fars Province police departments. The national police chief of the Islamic Republic visited 'Adelabad Prison and the (?police academy) in Shiraz this evening. According to our correspondent, Colonel Hejazi will attend the morning prayer ceremonies of the police [in Shiraz] and will make a speech.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 738

LD231806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Communique 738 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, on the fronts west of Dezful, exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued between our forces and the enemy. Enemy soldiers killed numbered some 28. On the Susangerd and Bostan fronts, the victorious combatants of the ground forces, by opening heavy and continuous fire on the positions of the defeated Saddamists, shook them to such an extent that they were forced to change their defensive positions. As a result, our mighty combatants are securing new positions daily.

On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, our naval heroes, by opening fire on the positions of the Iraqi forces, were able to inflict the following losses on the enemy: the destruction of 1 tank with its crew, the destruction of 1 mortar, 5 weapons emplacements and observation posts and the killing or wounding of more than 18 infidel soldiers.

Yesterday a battle and an exchange of fire continued on the fronts in the western parts of the country, particularly Gilan-e Gharb. However, the intensity of the exchange of fire in Meymak was more than in other regions and on the Gilan-e Gharb front, thanks to fire opened by the ground forces, 20 servicemen from Iraq's aggressive army were either killed or wounded. Also, in a series of surprise operations our victorious combatants were able to destroy 15 enemy squad trenches and 4 trucks, to put out of action 2 of their tanks and to kill 3 Saddamists.

Enemy losses on other western fronts include the demolition of a fuel dump, one tank, one 10-mm rifle and the destruction of a number of squad and individual weapons' emplacements and the killing or wounding of a number of infidel servicemen.

On the Qasr-e Shirin front, the gendarmerie combatants, by opening mortar fire on enemy positions, while preventing enemy movements, destroyed five of their trenches and killed or wounded a number of their servicemen.

IRAQI COUNTERATTACK REPELLED IN GILAN-E GHARB

LD231834 Tehran PARS in English 1641 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 23 Dec (PARS) -- Some three enemy counteroffensives were crushed during Dec 21 and 22 in the Gilan-e Gharb, Charmian, Siah Kuh, Sartatan, Tapeh Anaci, Kuh Gach, Avazin, Tang-e Kurak, and Bansiran, in the western region of the country near the city of Qasr-e Shirin less than ten kilometers from the Iraqi border.

As a result, some 22 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one tank, 26 vehicles, two bulldozers, 17 bunkers, and 16 munitions depots of the enemy forces were destroyed. In other fronts in this region in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Baraftab, Kasekhabud, Bazi Deraz, Dasht-e Zahab, and Kur-e Mush, 15 enemy soldiers were killed and two tanks, seven vehicles, and 10 bunkers of the aggressor forces were destroyed during this period.

In a separate report from Gilan-e Gharb, an enemy counterattack was repelled on Tuesday, and 23 enemy soldiers were killed and four vehicles, two tanks and 15 group bunkers of the Iraqis were destroyed. Also on Tuesday, the fire of Muslim fighters on enemy positions in the Meymak and Zil regions, in Ilam Province, one tank, six group bunkers and one 10-mm gun of the Iraqi aggressors were destroyed and five enemy soldiers were killed and a number of others were wounded. Clashes were also reported from other fronts of this province, Kan-e Sakht and Sumar in which one group bunker and a fuel storage tank of the Iraqis were destroyed and a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, during the 24 hours preceding Wednesday.

AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN CLASH WITH RUSSIAN SOLDIERS

LD211124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] In a severe fight which took place in Balkh Province of Afghanistan between Muslim mujahidin and government troops and Russian soldiers, 27 Russian troops were killed and 3 tanks and 1 helicopter gunship were destroyed. The Afghan mujahidin captured a number of firearms.

Also, in another battle in the same region, 47 of the invading troops were killed and 46 Muslim mujahidin were martyred.

BRIEFS

URANIUM DISCOVERY -- The Iranian organization of nuclear energy has announced the discovery of huge uranium deposits in four places in Iran. Director of the organization Reza Amrollah has noted that in light of this discovery, the Iranian organization of nuclear energy has begun desalinizing water in some parts of Iran. He has stated that the organization will follow up with a detailed program of nuclear research and scientific study. [Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Dec 81 GF]

AZARBAYJAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS -- Tehran, 14 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- Since the beginning of the month of Azar (Nov 22-Dec 21), some 510 tons of agricultural products and 212,000 animal hides worth 106 million rials were exported from East Azarbayjan Province. The goods were exported by the standard office of this province to East and West Germany, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Austria, Holland, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Italy. [Text] [Tehran PARS in English 1540 GMT 14 Dec 81 GF]

KERMAN COAL MINING -- Tehran, 23 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- The production rate of the coal mines of Kerman Province, southeastern Iran, reached 36,095 tons in the Iranian month of Azar (Nov 22-Dec 21st), according to the managing director of the Kerman coal mine company, Hashemi. He added that this figure represented a rise of 10,000 tons compared with the preceding month. The figure also showed a rise of 8,000 tons compared with the average rate of production of the past months, said Hashemi. The managing director of the Kerman coal mine company further stated that this level of production, which was unprecedented both before and after the Islamic revolution, was due to the efforts and revolutionary determination of the committed Muslim workers. [Text] [Tehran PARS in English 1829 GMT 23 Dec 81 GF]